

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/990,954

Examiner

Sam Rimell

Applicant(s)

MORINVILLE, PAUL V.

Art Unit

2164

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.


1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Reply of 3/8/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 6-12, 18-20 and 35-43.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Sam Rimell
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2164

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An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mark Berrier on May 10, 2006.

Examiner's Amendment

Claim 36: (amended) The software product of claim 35, further comprising delivering a notification to [the] an identified person associated with each approval role.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Sam Rimell at telephone number (571) 272-4084.



Sam Rimell
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2164

Reasons for Allowance

Claims 1-3, 6-12, 18-20 and 35-43 have been indicated as allowed. Claims 1 and 35 are the independent claims. The closest prior art is to Pinard (U.S. Patent 6,075,851 and Pinard U.S. Patent 6,816,589).

Claim 1 differs from Pinard ('851) and Pinard ('589) in that it sets forth the steps of :

(c) making a determination whether the second position is associated with the selected role and terminating the search when the second position is associated with the selected role and searching positions below the second position in the organizational structure when the second position is not associated with the selected role; (d) identifying a third position above the second position and repeating (c) from the third position when the selected role is not found among the positions below the second position in the organizational structure.

Claim 35 differs from Pinard ('851) and Pinard ('589) in that it sets forth the steps of:

(b) making a determination whether the second position is associated with the approval role and terminating the search when the second position is associated with the approval role and searching positions below the second position in the hierarchical organizational structure if when the second position is not associated with the approval role; (c) identifying a third position above the second position and repeating (b) with the second position substituted for the first position and the third position substituted for the second position when the approval role is not found among the positions below the second position in the organizational structure.

Each of claims 1 and 35 also meet the requirements for a useful, concrete and tangible result and meet the criteria for patent eligibility under 35 USC 101.

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Claims 1 and 35 are therefore allowed. Claims 2-3, 6-12, 18-20 and 36-43 are dependent thereon.


SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER

C. Bl.